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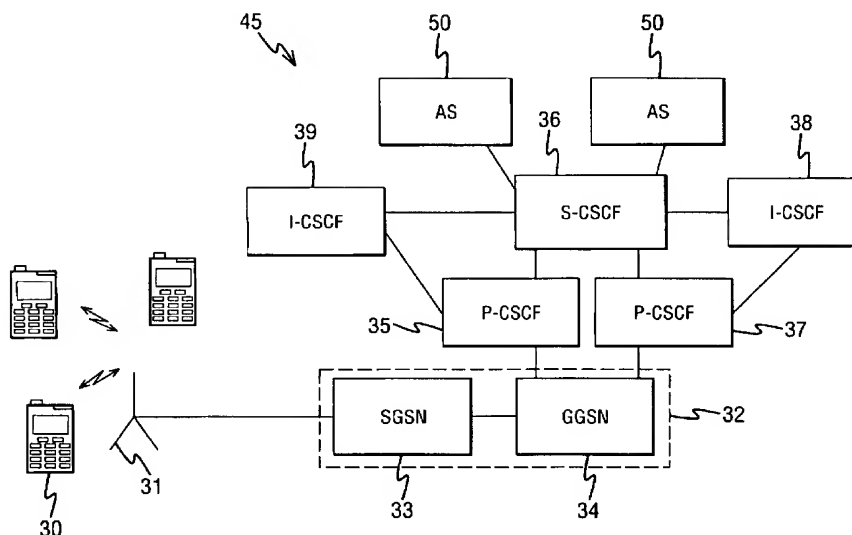
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**(54) Title:** A METHOD FOR HANDLING SERVICE FAILURES



**(57) Abstract:** A method for handling service failures for in a communications network comprising a user equipment, a first network element and a serving network element, the method comprising the following steps. Receiving at the first network element a first message from the user equipment. Transmitting the first message from the first network element to the serving network element. Detecting at the first network element that the serving network element is out of service. Determining at the first network element the type of the first message, and in dependence on the type of the first message sending from the first network element to the user equipment an error message including an indication that the serving network element is out of service.

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